

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 13-14. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-2, 4-17, 20-24 and 33 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention provides a process for mask-free localized grafting of organic molecules on a composite surface.

In the Final Rejection dated March 28, 2007, Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Final Rejection asserted:

Claims 12-17 are indefinite for reciting the phrase "said organic molecules include at least one of electrograftable molecules" because it is not clear how this term further limits claim 1. Specifically, since the organic molecules are electrochemically grafted in claim 1, it follows that the organic molecules must be "electrograftable".

Claims 12-17 are indefinite for reciting the phrase "said organic molecules *include* at least one of electrograftable molecules" because **it is not clear how a molecule "includes" another molecule**. If Applicants wish to use Markush language, the phrase "selected from the group consisting of" is recommended. Final Rejection dated March 28, 2007, at page 2, line 23 to page 3, line 4 (italics in original)(bold emphasis added).

In the Amendment filed January 28, 2008, Claim 12 was amended as follows:

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, in which said organic molecules include ~~at least one of electrograftable molecules and~~ electrocleavable molecules.

The Patent Office Communication dated July 7, 2008, asserts:

Applicants have not responded to the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, and its dependent claims, for recitation of molecules that "include" other molecules. Although Applicants have provided some form of amendment to the claim, the claim language is structurally still the same, and there is no specific assertion in Applicants' arguments as to why the rejection was in error. Patent Office Communication dated July 7, 2008.

On the contrary, the Amendment filed January 28, 2008, at page 10, line 24-25, specifically asserted that "Applicants submit that one group of molecules can include a sub-group of molecules".

In other words, the rejection of Claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in the Final Rejection dated March 28, 2007, is in error because the rejection implies that Claim 12 features a single molecule that includes another single molecule when the Final Rejection states "it is not clear how a molecule 'includes' another molecule".

However, Claim 12 does not feature a single molecule that includes another single molecule.

On the contrary, Claim 12 recites "said organic molecules include electrocleavable molecules". In Claim 12, the organic molecules are not limited to those selected from the group consisting of electrocleavable molecules, but can include molecules other than electrocleavable molecules in addition to electrocleavable molecules. Because one group of molecules (i.e., organic molecules) can include a sub-group of molecules (i.e., electrocleavable organic molecules), Claim 12 is not indefinite. Thus, the rejection of Claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in the Final Rejection dated March 28, 2007, is in error and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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